

REMARKS

In order to place the subject application in condition for allowance pursuant to a telephone discussion with Examiner Lilling, claim 1 has been canceled; claim 2 has been placed in independent form; and originally presented claims 4-16, each of which is at least ultimately dependent from allowable claim 2, have been reasserted in the form of claims 18-30 respectively.

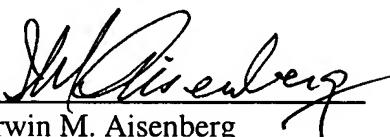
Applicants reserve the right to assert in a continuing application subject matter of this application which is presently unclaimed.

In the Advisory Action (Paper No. 14) of September 15, 2003, the allowance of claims 2 and 3 is confirmed. Having instantly placed claim 2 in independent form, any prior formal impediment to the allowability of that claim has been overcome.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By: 
Irwin M. Aisenberg
Reg. No. 19,007

400 Seventh Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 638-6666
Date: December 17, 2002
IMA:cwp